

EIGHTIETH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

# American Colonization Society,

WITH THE

MINUTES

OF THE

ANNUAL MEETING AND OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

JANUARY 19, 1897.

WASHINGTON CITY :

COLONIZATION BUILDING, 450 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE.

1897.

JUDD & DETWEILER, PRINTERS.

# THE EIGHTIETH ANNUAL REPORT.

## NECROLOGY.

During the past year death has taken from this Society two of its distinguished and most devoted and active members.

The Rev. Thomas G. Addison, D. D., rector of Trinity Protestant Episcopal Church of Washington, District of Columbia, died April 3, 1896, in the sixty-fourth year of his age.

He was elected a member of the Executive Committee of this Society in 1878, and filled that office until his death. As a man, he had positive and earnest convictions and the courage to speak and act in accordance therewith; as a devout Christian minister, his teachings and life were in close harmony; as a member of this Society and one of its important executive officers, he was ever at his post of duty, and most zealously and faithfully served the cause in which he had enlisted.

On the occasion of his death his surviving colleagues on the Executive Committee of this Society and the Pennsylvania Auxiliary Colonization Society unanimously adopted and placed upon their records resolutions expressing their high appreciation of the services of their late colaborer, their deep sense of official loss, and most sincere personal sorrow.

The Rev. George Whitefield Samson, D. D., died in New York city, August 8, 1896, in the seventy-seventh year of his age.

He was born in Harvard, Massachusetts, September 29, 1819; he entered Brown University in 1835 and was graduated therefrom in 1839; he was pastor of a Baptist church at Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts, of the E Street Baptist church and the First Baptist church, Washington, District of Columbia, and of the Mount Morris Baptist church, Harlem, New York, making a total pastorate of sixteen years; and he was president of the

Columbian College, District of Columbia, from 1859 to 1870, during which time medical and law departments were added to that institution, and subsequently he was president of Rutgers Female College, New York city.

He traveled in Europe, Palestine, and Egypt, and wrote extensively for publication, his best-known work being a book on the "Elements of Art Criticism," designed for and in its time extensively used by higher schools and colleges.

He was a delegate from the District of Columbia Colonization Society to the American Colonization Society in 1856, and at the meeting held January 17 of that year was elected a member of the Executive Committee, in which capacity he served until October 9, 1871, when he resigned on account of his removal from the city. In 1873, by the donation of a friend, he was made a life director in the Society. He thus held important offices in this Society for the greater part of a period of forty years. In 1874 he delivered the annual address before the Society, taking as his subject "Correlate Duties of the People of the United States to the Descendants of Colored People desiring to be Colonists in Africa," and in 1881 he delivered another annual address, his subject being "The United States Government, the Founder and Necessary Patron of the Liberian Republic." During the long period of his service in this Society he was one of its most zealous, vigilant, and active members, seldom, if ever, absent from a meeting to which his official duties called him.

He was a man of marked ability, with a wide range of scholarship, and a pronounced optimist, who saw good and hope in everything; he planned and worked with a zeal that never flagged and an industry that never tired. Many of his labors were crowned with eminent success, and now that he has finished his life-work the epitaph universally accorded to him by all who knew him best is "Well done."

Joseph James Cheeseman, President of Liberia, died in Monrovia from an attack of epilepsy, at 10.30 o'clock p. m., November 12, 1896, in the fifty-fourth year of his age.

He was born in Edina, Grand Bassa county, Liberia, March 7, 1843, of parents sent out by this Society as colonists from the United States, and he acquired all his education in the schools and college of Liberia. He was altogether a Liberian product, and during his lifetime was never out of Africa.

As a young man he engaged in mercantile business, in which he acquired a competence for himself, and his high character, intelligence, and energy gave him a prominent place among the merchants of the West Coast of Africa. During his earlier career he filled with great credit to himself and usefulness to his country many subordinate civil and military positions.

In 1868 he was ordained pastor of a Baptist church, and he officiated regularly in the pulpit until he became President of Liberia and occasionally while holding that office. He was elected President of Liberia and inaugurated in 1892, the presidential term of office being two years; was reelected for a second term commencing in 1894, and for a third term commencing in 1896.

President Cheeseman's administration was signalized by the purchase of two gunboats, with which he was enabled to police the coast, to prevent the frequent violation of revenue laws, from which the government treasury had suffered for a long time, to secure peace, such as had never been known before, with the coast tribes of Sinoe and Cape Palmas, who had been in a state of chronic rebellion for many years, and to facilitate the transportation of the mails between isolated coast settlements; by supplying the country with much needed governmental subsidiary coins of silver and copper; by his earnest efforts to bring the aboriginal peoples of Liberia into more sympathetic and closer relations with those of colonial origin and into a more full participation in the government, to stimulate all to more active and intelligent industrial enterprises, and with these ends in view to build up and foster a better system of public schools.

He believed in the future development and progress of his race, and his life and character were a most creditable contribution to that end. Liberia and the Negro race may well honor the man and follow his example.

The Vice-President of the Republic, the Hon William David Coleman, in the presence of the cabinet and other officers of the government, was inaugurated President at 12 o'clock m. on the day following the death of President Cheeseman, the 13th of November, to fill out the remainder of the term ending with 1897.

## EMIGRATION.

The Society has made no expenditure on account of transportation of emigrants to Liberia during the year, but nevertheless this year's emigration was larger than it was in any other year for more than a quarter of a century. Of the hundreds of thousands of Negroes in the United States in a condition of abject poverty, in the employment of or wholly dependent upon others, living from hand to mouth, and anxious to emigrate to Liberia or any other country, it may safely be stated in general that neither themselves nor the country to which they might go would gain anything by the change. Especially is it true that in Liberia, a country, however bountifully endowed by nature, where the conditions are still primitive, the emigrant not sufficiently intelligent, courageous, and industrious to rely upon himself and by the sweat of his face to wrest his living and fortune from the soil had better remain where he can have the menial and subordinate employments and assistance found only in countries having the older and more advanced civilization which produces them, and the fact that he has in this country acquired the means to pay his own expenses in emigrating and establishing himself in Liberia is the best evidence that he possesses these essential qualifications.

Reliable information has been received that not less than 325 Negroes have emigrated from the United States to Liberia during the year, who went out of their own accord and received no pecuniary assistance from this Society or otherwise. Under the old system of colonization at the expense of this Society, it would have cost from \$40,000 to \$50,000 to have given these 325 persons free transportation to Liberia and support there for six months after their arrival.

Many of these emigrants are reported as pleased with their new homes and doing well. A few have returned to the United States and demonstrated their unfitness for the self-reliant, intelligent, and industrious life required of a pioneer in a new country. The number of those who have put their hand to the plow and looked back, however, has not been larger than accompanied the entire experience of the colonization of Liberia when this Society was accustomed to give colonists a free passage out

and furnish them with provisions for six months after their arrival.

A few have returned with the tales of privation, hardship, and sickness familiar from the time of the first settlement of Liberia, the only difference between then and now consisting in the fact that at the present time the Argus-eyed Associated Press, with its Briarean hands, catches the returning emigrant immediately upon his landing here, and forthwith scatters his wondrous and woeful tales throughout the length and breadth of the land. These exaggerated, and to some extent false, reports serve their authors in successfully appealing to the charitable for assistance, which is usually the first business in which the returned Liberian emigrant engages on his arrival in this country.

These things have so often been the subject of explanations by this Society that it may seem to be an idle task to repeat them, but an erroneous conclusion may be reached by many a casual reader of these reports who does not stop to reflect that Liberia is still a country with primitive conditions, and settlement in all such countries holds out the cross before the crown.

Speaking of the early settlement of Plymouth, Massachusetts, Palfrey, in his "History of New England," says :

"The labor of preparing habitations had scarcely begun when sickness set in, the consequence of exposure and bad food. Within four months it carried off nearly half the company. Of the one hundred and two who had arrived, six died in December, eight in January, seventeen in February, and thirteen in March. At one time there were only six or seven who had strength enough left to nurse the dying and bury the dead. The sick lay crowded in the unwholesome vessel or in half-built cabins heaped around with snowdrifts. The dead were interred in a bluff by the water side, the marks of burial being carefully effaced, lest the natives should discover how safe would be an attack; but through all this sorrow the lesson rehearsed at Leyden was not forgotten, that 'all great and honorable actions are accompanied with great difficulties, and must be both enterprised and overcome with answerable courages.'" \* \* \*

"The Mayflower returned to England, sailing April 5, 1621. About that time Carver, one of the colonists who had been chosen governor, died, and was greatly lamented. His wife followed him in a few weeks. Bradford was put in Carver's place. Isaac

Allerton was chosen to be his assistant. Forty-six of the Mayflower passengers were now dead, including twenty-eight of the forty-eight adult men. Before the next arrival of immigrants in the autumn, fifty-one, just half of the first passengers, were dead." \* \* \*

In 1630 a number of vessels arrived, bringing a thousand passengers; but, says Mr. Palfrey, "The reception of the newcomers was discouraging. More than a quarter part of their predecessors at Salem had died during the previous winter, and many of the survivors were ill or feeble. The faithful Higginson was wasting with a hectic fever, which soon proved fatal. There was a scarcity of all sorts of provisions, and not corn enough for a fortnight's supply after the arrival of the fleet. The remainder of a hundred and eighty servants, who, in the two preceding years had been conveyed over at a heavy cost, were discharged from their indentures to escape the expense of their maintenance. Sickness soon began to spread, and before the close of autumn had carried off two hundred of that year's emigration."

"With the wretched shelter which was all that the most recent emigrants had been able to provide, the winter, from the last week in December, when the cold set in, to the middle of February, proved grievously severe. Many died of the scurvy, which disease Winthrop thought especially affected such as fell into discontent and hankered after their former condition in England. Suffering from want of food was added to the distresses of the time."

In an address delivered before this Society at the annual meeting in 1834, touching this subject, the Hon. Theodore Frelinghuysen said:

"As one illustration, I have collated the prominent incidents connected with the colony planted at Jamestown, Virginia, in May, 1607. It then consisted of one hundred persons, which number before September of that year was reduced to fifty, and soon after to thirty-eight, when a reinforcement of one hundred and twenty arrived. In 1609 a further addition of one hundred and fifty persons was made, and the colony then amounted to five hundred souls; but by imprudence, extravagance, and dissipation they were reduced in six months to sixty persons. In 1611 the colony had increased to two hundred; in 1622 it had become still more populous, when it was attacked by the

Indians, and three hundred and forty-seven men, women, and children were destroyed. The company which had been chartered was dissolved and the colony taken into the hands of the King and enjoyed the care and protection of the Crown. The venerable historian of those times (Chief Justice Marshall) gives the conclusion of the matter as it stood in 1624: 'About £150,000 sterling had been expended in planting the colony and more than 9,000 persons had been sent from Europe to people it, and yet at the end of seventeen years the population was reduced to 1,800 persons.'

We take leave of this topic with the statement that the going out to Liberia of all those emigrants who have shown their backs to the little Republic and returned to the United States, whether paying their own expenses or receiving charitable assistance from others, was a palpable mistake, and their early leave-taking was for the good of Liberia.

The project of forming a new settlement of emigrants on the higher lands between the falls at the head of navigation on the St. Paul river and Mount Coffee has made some progress under the direction of Professor Cook. He reports that the farm at Mount Coffee, which it is proposed to make a model for the instruction of new settlers in that region, is being cleared up and cultivated and about 10,000 coffee trees are now growing, as well as a variety of other crops and fruit trees.

The Liberian government at the last session of its legislature made a grant to the Society of the lands to the depth of one-half mile on each side of the wagon road proposed to be constructed between White Plains, located at the Falls of the St. Paul river, and Mount Coffee, a distance of about 10 miles, for colonization and other purposes.

People in other parts of Liberia are watching this enterprise with much interest and are anxious to avail themselves of all its practical and successful features.

#### BUREAU OF INFORMATION.

A successful effort has been made to interest the younger and better educated generation of Negroes of the United States in the welfare of Liberia and the exceptional opportunities it now offers to their race, if they have any aspirations for an independent and prosperous government in any part of the great



continent of Africa, which now is passing rapidly into the hands of the white races, much of it evidently to remain under their control for a long time to come. To one familiar with the changes that the map has already undergone and which are still progressing, it is clearly evident that Liberia furnishes the last chance and hope of accomplishing so desirable an object.

It is to this class of Negroes that we must look for any substantial strengthening of Liberia by immigration from this country, and therefore we heartily welcome the inquiries for information received from students who have recently graduated from or who are still pursuing their studies in higher industrial and technical schools.

Of late intelligent inquiries for information about Liberia, accompanied by earnest expressions of a desire to make that country their field of practical professional work, have come from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and other schools of like character. Under the pressure of the fierce competition and struggle for place in this country, it is quite certain that the increasing number of young Negroes educated in such schools will more and more turn their attention to Liberia, where their services are greatly needed and where they will not be driven to the wall by unequal competition with the white race.

Bulletins Nos. 8 and 9, the former containing an up-to-date map of Africa, have been issued and distributed in response to calls for information. An effort has been made to present in these publications not only the latest information concerning Liberia, but also to include the most interesting and recent news and discussions relating to the whole continent of Africa and the Negro race. The future of Liberia is so bound up with that of the latter that no intelligent and comprehensive discussion of her interests can ignore this environment.

A large number of copies of Professor O. F. Cook's excellent "Third Report" to the New York Society, furnished through the courtesy of that Society, have also been distributed, and all letters of inquiry about Liberia, daily received, are promptly answered with the best information obtainable.

Our extensive exchange list brings to us the best foreign and domestic publications relating to all movements in Africa—political, commercial, and missionary—and the progress of the Negro race here and elsewhere.

## COMMERCE BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND AFRICA.

Modern commerce not only opens roads for the advance of Christianity and civilization, but, taken as a whole, is a great civilizer itself. It owns the steam-engines and the electric batteries of the nineteenth century, builds the steamboats and the railroads, and stretches the telegraphic wires and cables to the most remote regions of the globe, thus bringing the entire human family into fraternal business and social relations. When the day's work is done, we now take up our evening newspapers and read a reliable account of the important events that have taken place during the day in all parts of the world.

One reason for the slow progress of Liberia, settled by colonists from the United States, has been the very slight intercourse between the two countries, commercial and otherwise. In fact, it is of comparatively recent date that the commerce of this country with the whole of Africa was hardly worthy of notice by the statistician.

It is therefore highly encouraging to the friends of Liberia to notice in the "Monthly Summary of Finance and Commerce of the United States," September, 1896, prepared by the Bureau of Statistics, Treasury Department, the following significant statistics of our trade with Africa for the first nine months of the year 1896 compared with the same period for 1895 :

*Exports from the United States to Africa, January to September, Inclusive.*

	1895.	1896.	Increase.
Agricultural implements.....	\$257,112	\$348,655	\$91,543
Wheat .....	111,033	1,556,662	1,445,629
Flour.....	44,474	729,731	685,257
Carriages and cars.....	98,436	262,432	163,996
Cotton cloth.....	345,798	697,902	352,104
Miscellaneous machinery.....	830,372	1,056,878	226,506
Mineral and cotton-seed oil.....	694,729	922,932	228,203
Meats—canned, fresh, salted, etc.....	141,880	333,306	191,426
Lumber .....	822,963	1,110,997	288,034

There was also a marked increase in the quantity of other exports—bicycles, fruits and nuts, builders' hardware and tools, sewing machines, leather, spirits of turpentine, seeds, tobacco,

books, etc.—and the imports from Africa showed a corresponding increase.

Liberia's commerce is, of course, a small affair as yet, but it is to be regretted that it is almost entirely in the hands of the English and Germans, whose steamships on the west coast of Africa touch frequently and regularly at Liberian ports, and some of whose enterprising merchants are located in the more prominent seaport towns of the little Republic.

American goods are preferred by the Liberians, and are now used to a considerable extent, but they are purchased second-hand in Liverpool and Hamburg instead of New York and Baltimore.

#### EDUCATION.

Our agent in Liberia, Mr. Julius C. Stevens, has devoted his services largely to the improvement of the common schools.

President Cheeseman appointed him Commissioner of Education for a part of Montserrado county, a position which gave him official standing and authority in his work.

He reports that the expense of purchasing and maintaining two gunboats and bringing the coast tribes of natives into subjection to the authority of the government has interfered with the prompt payment of teachers for their services, and in this way, to some extent, impaired that efficiency and usefulness of the schools which otherwise might have been realized.

The Executive Committee of this Society, through Mr. Stevens, offered to pay a salary of not exceeding \$200 a year for a teacher whenever and wherever the citizens of Liberia would establish a new school, build a school-house, furnish it, and provide for its incidental expenses, the schools to be under the supervision of our agent in Liberia, and to make regular reports of their condition, attendance, and progress to this Society as vouchers for the payment of the money.

Under this arrangement a greatly needed new school was established at Greenville, Sinoe county, and opened on the 1st day of May last. It was named the Graham school, in honor of the donor of the fund from the income of which is paid the salary of the teacher. A satisfactory report of the first quarter, ended the 31st day of July last, has been received from Mr.

Stevens, and the money to pay the salary of the teacher has been forwarded.

He also reports that the citizens of Royesville and Brewerville, in Montserrado county, have selected and secured the land suitable for sites, commenced the work of building school-houses, and expect to complete them and be ready to comply with the terms of our offer early in the present year.

From these statements it appears that the policy of this Society to use its limited educational funds in such a way as to stimulate the Liberians to greater activity in their own behalf is meeting with their approval and coöperation.

The Hall school at Cape Palmas, in Maryland county, has continued in successful operation. The reports of the teacher, Mr. Samuel J. Dossen at present, are received regularly by this Society, and show an aggregate annual attendance of about 75 pupils and an average number on the roll of about 50 pupils, among whom are included a considerable number of youths belonging to the native tribes.

At its last session the legislature of Liberia granted to this Society 1,000 acres of land contiguous to the 200 acres which it already held at Beulah, making a total of 1,200 acres now held in trust for All Saints' Hall school. Prof. O. F. Cook visited the place at the request of this Society and made a most favorable report on its eligibility for an industrial institution in which horticulture and agriculture should receive prominent attention.

The Executive Committee, however, do not consider the fund held in trust for the benefit of this school large enough at present to justify them in undertaking to prepare the necessary buildings and commence such a school as they contemplate and hope to see established eventually in this place.

The scholarship supported in Gannnon Theological Seminary by the "Theodore Lewis Mason, M. D., fund" was given to John D. Whitaker, A. B., reported to be one of the brightest and most promising students in that institution, with the understanding that when his studies are completed his services are to be devoted to his race in Africa, and, if practicable, in Liberia.

The supplying of school text-books and appliances for the schools of Liberia at the wholesale cost prices in this country is still continued through our agent, Mr. Stevens.

## CONCLUSION.

When our civil war ended and the Negro slave was set free, and his rights as a full citizen guaranteed by constitutional amendments, it was expected by his ardent friends that he would speedily take his place abreast of the white man at the close of this century. A generation has passed and that expectation has not been realized. There has been progress, but such as clearly to demonstrate that the development of a race is a gradual growth of centuries rather than the political event of a year.

The philanthropic founders of this Society thought that to set a Negro free, place him on the coast of Africa, from whence he originally came, protect him from outside interference, and furnish him a little advice and assistance were to make a nineteenth century Anglo-Saxon of him. The expectations of these men were not founded upon the historical experiences of other races and nations, and hence there has been disappointment at the slow progress of Liberia.

The first little settlement of Liberia was made on the West Coast of Africa, near the mouth of the Montserrado river, in the midst of hostile tribes of natives, April 25, 1822.

With only such protection and assistance as this Society, without any governmental standing and authority, could render, the little colony for twenty-five years had a hard struggle to overcome a hostile African coast climate and still more hostile neighboring savages, whose chief source of gain, the slave trade, was being broken up by these newcomers.

For reasons not necessary to be recited here, it became necessary for the colony to have a recognized standing among the nations of the world, and accordingly Liberia, on the 26th day of July, 1847, published a declaration of independence and adopted a constitution for a republican form of government. The first half century of her existence as an independent nation will be completed on the 26th day of July next, and while there is much in the history of that period that is disappointing, there is also much that deserves high appreciation and inspires hope and confidence in the future.

Liberia has maintained her form of government, through all the vicissitudes to which it has been subjected, without revolution or violence. One administration has succeeded another in

the legal and orderly way prescribed by her constitution and laws, and when vacancies in the important offices of the executive, legislative, and judicial departments of the government have occurred, men of a good degree of ability and fitness have always been found to fill them.

In the earlier history of the country traffic with the native tribes of the hinterlands was almost the only occupation from which the people derived money, but in recent years coffee-raising has been taking its place—an industry requiring but little capital or machinery, and in which the great body of her citizens can profitably engage.

Mr. Heard, the United States consul general at Monrovia, under date of September 25, 1896, reported to the State Department as follows:

“The producing and exporting of Liberian coffee is becoming a subject of great concern to the farmers of this Republic. The phenomenal increase in its production is worthy of consideration. The coffee exported during the fiscal year 1886 amounted to 600,000 pounds, while the exports for the year ended June 30, 1896, amounted to 3,000,000 pounds. Farmers, merchants, and people generally have turned their attention to coffee-growing. While no American ships touch at any Liberian port, yet more than one-fifteenth of the coffee produced is shipped to the United States via Liverpool. Coffee is the largest export, yet palm oil, palm kernels, piassava, and rubber are shipped in great quantities. If ships from the United States touched at Monrovia, Bassa, and Cape Palmas, half of the imports would be American, and in turn the exports would go to the United States. The people, save the few Europeans residing here, prefer American produce. The reason for this preference is that the people are immigrants from the United States and in habits and life are American. A direct line of steamers from New York or Boston, touching at this port once in two months, would be a paying enterprise.”

The attention which scientists of this and other countries have been giving to Liberia during the last few years promises to be of great benefit in making the unutilized wealth and opportunities of the country better known. Between the years 1880 and 1887 Professor J. Büttikofer, a well-known scientist of Leyden, spent some three years in Liberia investigating its geography

and natural history and the ethnography of its aboriginal races. His report, published in German, in two large volumes, contains a most comprehensive, accurate, and interesting account of the flora and fauna of the country and the social life and character of the people, and it is much to be regretted that an English republication has not appeared in this country.

Since 1891 Professor O. F. Cook, an American scientist, with two assistants, has spent much of his time in Liberia, and has made three valuable reports to the New York Colonization Society, under whose auspices he went out. These reports have been published. Very recently the Smithsonian Institution has sent out with Professor Cook Mr. Rolla P. Currie, a young American scientist, who is to obtain natural history and ethnological objects for the National Museum and also to pay attention to protective mimicry, especially among insects.

Outside of Liberia, especially in South Africa, many American mining engineers and scientists are now to be found. Dr. Becker, of the United States Geological Survey, has recently returned from an extensive study of the gold resources of South Africa, and reports that "the Transvaal Republic contains the largest gold deposits in the world. Within fifteen miles of Johannesburg there is an amount of gold, practically in sight, estimated to be worth \$3,500,000,000, or nearly as much as the entire volume of gold coin now in the world. The gold is extraordinarily uniform, as uniform as coal in an ordinary deposit, as shown by shafts which have been sunk to a depth of 1,800 feet, and diamond drillings which have gone still further. At present the gold is being taken out at the rate of \$100,000,000 a year."

It is fortunate for Liberia that the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States has always taken so deep an interest in her welfare and has been so liberal in the men and money she has furnished for religious and educational work in that country. The recent appointment of one of her most able and vigorous men, the Rev. Joseph C. Hartzell, D. D., bishop of Africa promises still better things for Liberia from this source. His well-known services in similar work for the Negro in the United States is a guarantee of like success in Africa. He is now on his way to Liberia, and has expressed a desire to coöperate with this Society in promoting the best interests of that country. He proposes, among other practical schemes, to establish a general

hospital in Monrovia, and through it to bring about better professional attention to the needs of the sick and a more intelligent observance of the laws of health in that tropical climate.

An unprejudiced examination of all the facts will furnish no reason for despairing of Liberia's future. In no part of the world has the Negro during the same time done better, if so well. The Negroes of Liberia, taken as a whole, are today more competent for independent self-government than those of any other part of the world, and their social and material condition more favorable than generally found elsewhere.

When Professor Cook first visited that country he was wholly unfamiliar with the character and condition of the great body of the Negroes in the United States and his views of the Liberians were somewhat pessimistic. A longer sojourn with them has modified his first partial impressions, and while in this country last summer he made an extensive tour through the Southern States for the express purpose of studying the character and condition of the Negroes in our Southern States, and has published the following comparative statement:

"There are so many cases of success among the emigrants who have combined energy with intelligence as to make it absolutely sure that men of that kind can go to Liberia with a reasonable hope of bettering their condition. The condition of the Liberian population *as a whole* is probably *far* superior to that of any Negro community of equal size in the United States, notwithstanding the example and impetus which the Negro is supposed to gain from white contact. As an instance, I found that in a Southern community of this country about 2,000 people, of whom about one-third were white, there was only one Negro who would compare in material prosperity with the first 200 of any section of country occupied by 2,000 Liberians, and this man was said not to have prospered honestly. From this it might be inferred that the chances of success in Liberia are about 200 to 1 as compared with the United States. This is, however, misleading, for the men who have succeeded in Liberia have, as a rule, possessed more than the average intelligence and perseverance, though it may with propriety be maintained that they would never have displayed these qualities to any such degree had they remained in the United States. This is in line with another fact that has often struck me very forcibly, that there



are in the United States many Negroes leading an uncomfortable, hand-to-mouth existence who are evidently the superiors of men who occupy almost infinitely preferable stations in Liberia. I have no doubt that the difference is largely due to the fact that life in Liberia is, notwithstanding its numerous difficulties, far better calculated to call forth manly qualities and encourage sustained effort than any conditions to be found by the Negro in the United States. I have often said and still firmly believe that if I were a Negro I would make my home in Liberia. I feel certain about this, not so much because of the better opportunities of material prosperity, but because, after a wide acquaintance with Liberians and a vivid realization of their many deficiencies, I find them far more respectable altogether than Negroes I have met in the United States, with the rarest exceptions."

The report of the Treasurer is herewith submitted.

# TREASURER'S REPORT.

cc

Dr.	Receipts and Disbursements of the American Colonization Society, January 1 to December 31, 1896.		Cr.		
Received donations.....	\$1,400	00	Paid education in Liberia.....	\$362	50
Annuities.....	3,738	53	Water rent, taxes, insurance, repairs, etc.,		
Legacies.....	37	72	Colonization Building.....	776	71
Interest on securities.....	1,905	92	Printing Annual Report and Bulletins....	342	88
Rents of Colonization building.....	1,369	00	Salaries: Secretary (12 mos.), \$1,800; gen-		
Loans paid.....	5,500	00	eral agent (12 mos.), \$1,200; clerk (12		
Bonds sold (Hall School Fund). ....	6,101	49	mos.), \$600; janitor (12 mos.), \$180.....	3,780	00
All Saints' Hall Fund.....	105	00	Office expenses: Books, stationery, postage,		
Sale of text-books and Bulletins.....	38	20	fuel, gas, furniture, etc.....	354	48
			Investments.....	13,236	01
			Attorney's fee, litigation <i>in re</i> estate of		
			Margaret J. Myers, deceased .....	250	00
			Expenses, same suit. ....	75	00
			Theodore Lewis Mason, M. D., scholarship	50	00
			Miscellaneous.....	82	19
			Disbursements.....	\$19,309	77
Receipts.....	\$20,195	87	Balance January 1, 1897.....	1,893	13
Balance January 1, 1896.....	1,007	03			
	\$21,202	90		\$21,202	90

REGINALD FENDALL, *Treasurer.*

The Committee on Accounts have examined the Treasurer's accounts from January 1 to December 31, 1896, and the vouchers for the disbursements, and find the same correct.

A. W. RUSSELL.

WILLIAM W. GODDING.

J. ORMOND WILSON.

## MINUTES OF THE AMERICAN COLONIZATION SOCIETY.

COLONIZATION ROOMS, *January 19, 1897.*

The Annual Meeting of the American Colonization Society was held today, at 1 o'clock p. m., in the rooms of the Society, 450 Pennsylvania avenue N. W.

The Rev. Byron Sunderland, D. D., presided.

Mr. J. Ormond Wilson was appointed Secretary.

The minutes of the Annual Meeting, held January 21, 1896, were presented and approved.

On motion of Pay Director Alexander W. Russell, the Secretary was instructed to cast the ballot of the Society for the following officers to serve for the ensuing year, and the Secretary accordingly cast the ballot:

### PRESIDENT:

1892 RIGHT REV. HENRY C. POTTER, D. D., NEW YORK.

### VICE-PRESIDENTS:

1851 Rev. Robert Ryland, D. D., Ky.	1892 Rev. Edward W. Appleton, D. D., Pa.
1866 Hon. James K. Doolittle, Wis.	1892 Rev. William A. Bartlett, D. D., N. Y.
1867 Mr. Samuel A. Crozer, Pa.	1892 Mr. Osmun Latrobe, Md.
1870 Mr. Robert Arthington, England.	1893 Rt. Rev. Thos. U. Dudley, D. D., Ky.
1874 Rev. Bishop R. S. Foster, D. D., Mass.	1893 Hon. J. C. Bancroft Davis, D. C.
1875 Mr. Samuel K. Wilson, N. J.	1895 Hon. John T. Morgan, Ala.
1876 Rev. Samuel E. Appleton, D. D., Pa.	1895 Mr. Robert B. Davidson, Pa.
1876 Rev. Bishop H. M. Turner, D. D., Ga.	1895 Mr. Isaac T. Smith, N. Y.
1877 Rev. William E. Schenck, D. D., Pa.	1896 Judge William H. Arnoux, N. Y.
1878 Hon. Richard W. Thompson, Ind.	1896 Rev. Julius C. Grammer, D. D., Md.
1881 Rev. Bishop H. W. Warren, D. D., Col.	1896 Rev. Bishop J. A. Handy, D. D., Kan.
1882 Mr. Henry G. Marquand, N. Y.	1896 Rev. Wilbur F. Paddock, D. D., Pa.
1884 Rev. George D. Boardman, D. D., Pa.	1896 Mr. George A. Pope, Md.
1884 Rev. Bishop E. G. Andrews, D. D., N. Y.	1896 Rev. Wallace Radcliffe, D. D., D. C.
1884 Prof. Edw. W. Blyden, LL. D., Liberia.	1896 Hon. Henry M. Stanley, England.
1886 Hon. Alexander B. Hagner, D. C.	1896 Rt. Rev. Henry Y. Satterlee, D. D., D. C.
1888 Rev. J. Aspinwall Hodge, D. D., Pa.	1897 Rev. Bishop J. F. Hurst, D. D., D. C.
1888 Mr. Arthur M. Burton, Pa.	1897 Mr. John Welsh Dulles, Pa.
1891 Rev. Leighton Parks, Mass.	

Adjourned.

## MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

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WASHINGTON, D. C., *January 19, 1897.*

The Board of Directors of the American Colonization Society met today, at 12 o'clock m., in the rooms of the Society, No. 450 Pennsylvania avenue N. W., Washington, D. C.

In the absence of the Right Rev. Henry C. Potter, D. D., president, Mr. Arthur M. Burton, vice-president, called the meeting to order, and on his nomination the Rev. Byron Sunderland, D. D., was elected chairman.

Prayer was offered by the Rev. Dr. Sunderland.

The minutes of the Annual Meeting held January 21, 1896, were presented and approved.

Mr. Reginald Fendall, Dr. William W. Godding, and Mr. Gilbert Emley were appointed a Committee on Credentials, and the committee reported the following-named Delegates appointed for the year 1897:

*Pennsylvania Colonization Society.*—Mr. Arthur M. Burton, Mr. John Welsh Dulles, Mr. Gilbert Emley, and Pay Director Alexander W. Russell, U. S. N.

The following Directors were stated to be in attendance:

*Executive Committee.*—Rev. Byron Sunderland, D. D., Mr. Reginald Fendall, Dr. William W. Godding, Rev. A. J. Huntington, D. D., and Mr. J. Ormond Wilson.

Whereupon, on motion of Mr. Burton—

*Resolved,* That the report of the Committee on Credentials be accepted and the gentlemen named be received as members of the Board.

On motion of Mr. Fendall—

The Hon. Isaac T. Smith was received to represent the New York State Society and invited as a visitor to take a seat with the Board and participate in its discussions.

The Chair appointed the standing committees, as follows:

*Committee on Education and Foreign Relations.*—Rev. Dr. Huntington, Mr. Dulles, and Mr. Wilson.

*Committee on Accounts and Finance.*—Pay Director Russell, Mr. Wilson, and Dr. Godding.

*Committee on Auxiliary Societies and Agencies.*—Mr. Dulles, Mr. Fendall, and Mr. Emley.

*Committee on Emigration.*—Mr. Burton, Mr. Wilson, and Mr. Emley.

On motion—

*Resolved*, That a committee be appointed to nominate the Executive Committee, Secretary, and Treasurer for the ensuing year.

Mr. Burton, Pay Director Russell, and Mr. Emley were appointed the committee.

The Secretary presented and read the Eightieth Annual Report of the American Colonization Society.

The report of the Treasurer, showing his receipts and disbursements for the past year, with the certificates of audit; also a statement of the property of the Society, were presented.

Whereupon, on motion, it was—

*Resolved*, That the Annual Report and the Treasurer's Report, just read, with accompanying papers, be accepted, and that so much of them as relates to foreign relations, finance, auxiliary societies, agencies, accounts, emigration, and education be referred to the several standing committees in charge of those subjects respectively.

On motion—

The Board took a recess to give the members an opportunity to attend the Annual Meeting of the American Colonization Society.

The Board reconvened at 2 o'clock p. m.

Mr. Burton, Chairman of the Committee to Nominate an Executive Committee, Secretary, and Treasurer, made the following report, which was adopted unanimously:

*The Executive Committee.*—Rev. Byron Sunderland, D. D., Mr. Reginald Fendall, Dr. William W. Godding, Judge Charles C. Nott, Rev. A. J. Huntington, D. D., Mr. J. Ormond Wilson, and Rev. Bishop John F. Hurst, D. D.

*Secretary.*—Mr. J. Ormond Wilson.

*Treasurer.*—Mr. Reginald Fendall.

On motion---

*Resolved*, That the appointment of Mr. Henry T. Buell as general agent of this Society be continued for another year upon the present terms.

Pay Director Russell, chairman of the Standing Committee on Accounts and Finance, presented and read the following report, and it was, on motion, approved :

The Standing Committee on Accounts and Finance respectively report that they have examined the Treasurer's accounts for the period from January 1 to December 31, 1896, and the vouchers for the disbursements, and find the same correct; and that they have examined the evidences of property belonging to the Society for its own use and in trust, and find that they agree with the statement of the Treasurer.

Mr. Dulles, chairman of the Committee on Auxiliary Societies and Agencies, made the following report, which was adopted :

Your Committee on Auxiliary Societies suggest that the incoming Executive Committee endeavor to ascertain the views of the Auxiliary Societies, particularly on the subjects of education and emigration, and that the Executive Committee endeavor to formulate some plan by which all friends of Liberia can by more united efforts further the good of the young Negro republic.

Rev. Dr. Huntington, chairman of the Committee on Education and Foreign Relations, made the following report, which was adopted :

The importance which we as Americans attach to the education of all classes of our people and the great efforts which we are constantly making for the accomplishment of this object constitute the only argument which this committee need to use for urging this Society to employ all practicable means for the promotion of education in the Republic on the Western coast of Africa. If moral and intellectual culture is essential to our welfare as a nation and to the permanence of our free institutions, it is certainly no less essential to the prosperity of Liberia. The inhabitants of this little State on the shores of the Lark Continent need more knowledge and cultivation in order that they may have truer conceptions of their nature and destiny and duties as human beings, in order that they may have higher aspirations after "the true, the beautiful, and the good;" that they may know better how to act well their part in life, and that they may have more judgment and self-control, and may be less likely to be led astray from the paths of virtue and rectitude by their own evil passions or by the temptations of corrupt men. But however important education is to the Liberians, we have as a Society only the most scanty means of helping them to secure its benefits. Your committee therefore must at present satisfy themselves with only recommending :

First. That this Society exert itself to awaken greater interest among benevolent men in our country in so good and grand a work as that of

aiding the struggling Liberians in providing ampler means of moral and intellectual improvement for their people.

Secondly. That this Society make greater and more definite effort to send out men and women to Liberia who have made considerable progress in the rudiments of learning, and who may become teachers of schools, or at least intelligent, exemplary, and useful citizens of the country.

Thirdly. That the Society, through its Executive Committee, instruct their agent, Mr. Stevens, to continue to use all practicable means of assisting the Liberians in increasing the efficiency and the number of their public schools.

Mr. Burton, chairman of the Committee on Emigration, made the following report, which was adopted :

The steamship "Laurada," chartered by the "International Migration Society of Birmingham, Alabama," left Savannah, Georgia, on March 1, 1896, for Liberia, having on board 321 Negro emigrants, 170 males and 151 females. It is said that more than 15,000 colored people were assembled on the wharves and neighboring river banks to witness their departure. One of our Vice-Presidents, Rev. Bishop Henry M. Turner, was present and offered up a parting prayer for God's blessing upon these pioneers of the coming nation. As the ship cast off and started on her voyage, cheer after cheer went up from the multitude on shore, mingled with which were hundreds of voices shouting, "We are coming, too!" "We'll meet you in Liberia!" and this was continued until the steamer was out of sight. The great body of these emigrants have found a home and are now, by the latest advices, comfortably located and doing well.

We are informed that the "Migration Society" contemplates sending another steamer with emigrants to Liberia next fall. In this connection we have been favored with a communication from the American Minister and Consul General at Monrovia, Liberia, addressed to the Secretary of the Pennsylvania Colonization Society, under date of November 18, 1896, which is so full of wise suggestions and information that we have taken the liberty of embodying the whole paper in our report :

"LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,

"MONROVIA, LIBERIA, November 18, 1896.

"Hon. Secretary of the Pennsylvania Colonization Society.

"SIR: I have the honor to corroborate your statements concerning the late emigrants who returned from here to the United States. These people, not being a pioneering people, could not meet the conditions of a new country. The African fever is not so severe as ten years ago, and there are only a few cases of neglect where death is the final result.

"Many of the same colonists are here and beginning life under very favorable surroundings. Those who come should be prepared to live six months, for, if frugal and industrious, in six months one can get a founda-

tion on which to stand. Coming here at the beginning of the rainy season is a mistake. One arriving here in January could be settled when rains begin in June. While I am in favor of any and all coming who desire to do so, yet some knowledge of Liberia should be obtained by emigrants before they leave America. The uneducated have no idea of the change; but not half as many deaths have occurred as reported by those who have become dissatisfied and returned. Only self-reliant people can meet the demands of an unsettled, wild country. The thriftless, thoughtless idler has no place in Liberia. Many come and help Liberia and help themselves also.

"I am, very obediently,

WILLIAM H. HEARD,

*"Minister Resident and Consul General."*

The committee recommend that our Society continue, as heretofore, to encourage all honest efforts to aid emigration and to assure all who intend to seek for a permanent home in Liberia that this Society, as well as the government of Liberia, will do all that can be done to minister to their comfort and promote their best interests in their new residence.

Under the Society's auspices the Rev. Luke A. Anthony, a native of Liberia, a grandson of King Tom of the Bassa tribe, and a graduate of the Lincoln University in medicine and theology, has recently returned to his native land and established in Bassa a hospital, of which he has charge and in which he has already successfully performed several surgical operations. He further proposes to call to his aid other young men who were associated with him in the same university, and with their help to open common schools in that part of the country for the education of the colored youth of the Republic and the natives living in the neighborhood. This seems to be a providential opening for great improvement in the physical and mental conditions of the emigrant and native population, and another occasion for thanksgiving to the Father Almighty, who thus continues to the Society his divine favor.

The committee recommend that the Society aid the new hospital enterprise (in which there are already five beds for patients) as far as practicable from its limited funds and any additional amounts that may hereafter be specially contributed for the purpose.

The committee note with pleasure the fact of the recent appointment of Bishop Hartzell by the last General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church and his departure from London to Liberia; also the large increase that has recently been voted for the support of Methodist missions on the West Coast of Africa. The time has come when a harvest of most abundant fruit is about to be reaped as the result of 80 years of patient, watchful care and persistent devotion of the noble founders and their faithful successors in the work of this Society.

Our American people should be aroused to see the growing importance of the present colonization movement. We must continue to urge upon Congress and the President the propriety of encouraging commercial trade



and better postal communication with Liberia and the West Coast of Africa.

To this end your committee further recommend that the Executive Committee inquire into the expediency of chartering a steamship and providing for the transportation of a sufficient number of emigrants thereby who will pay their own expenses for an expedition in the early part of the fall, and endeavor to secure the coöperation of the "International Migration Society" in obtaining the required number of suitable emigrants, and also to arrange with the Liberian government and its prominent citizens for a return cargo of coffee and other Liberian products, so as to secure for the venture a successful result.

The committee recommend the adoption of the following resolution :

*Resolved*, That the report of the Committee on Emigration be referred to the Executive Committee, with a recommendation that such action be taken as may be considered practicable for securing the objects recommended.

On motion of Mr. Dulles, it was—

*Resolved*, That the sum of two hundred dollars be appropriated for Wells Hospital, Marshall, Liberia, for surgical instruments, medicines, and books, upon condition that a free bed be maintained.

On motion of Pay Director Russell, it was—

*Resolved*, That the sum appropriated for Wells Hospital be expended under the direction of the Pennsylvania Colonization Society.

On motion of Mr. Dulles, it was—

*Resolved*, That the Annual Report of the Society be referred to the Executive Committee for publication.

The Rev. Dr. Sunderland pronounced the benediction.

Adjourned.